

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [001] with the following amended paragraph:

[001] This application is a continuation-in-part of application United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/530,809, now abandoned, which was filed July 31, 2000, which was filed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 371 from PCT International Application No. PCT/DE99/02663 having an International Filing Date of August 26, 1999 and a Priority Date of September 5, 1998.

Please replace paragraph [015] with the following amended paragraph:

[015] This object is to be attained using the characterizing features of claim 1 by a method for production and a covering layer in which the thermoplastic adhesive coating possesses at least one additive that increases the friction between the covering layer and the printed card core during lamination so as to prevent displacement of the printed card core in relation to the covering layer or layers. The independent claim 6 is directed to a covering layer designed in accordance with the invention for use in the manufacture of multi-layer identity cards. The respectively following dependent claims related to The following are further advantageous and useful developments of the invention:

-- the thermoplastic adhesive coating has silica as an additive;

-- the thermoplastic adhesive coating has silicate as an additive;

-- the thermoplastic adhesive coating has calcium carbonate as an additive.

-- the percentage by weight of the additives in the thermoplastic adhesive coating amounts to between 0.1% and 60%.

-- the card comprises one or more card core layers bonded under the action of pressure and heat and printed on either side or on opposite sides with a covering layer applied to the printed side or sides of the card core, and in which a thermoplastic polymer adhesive is between and in direct contact with each covering layer and the respective printed side of the card core;

-- the thermoplastic adhesive coating possesses at least one additive that increases the friction between the covering layer and the printed card core during lamination so as to prevent displacement of the printed card core in relation to the covering layer or layers;

-- the thermoplastic adhesive coating has a thickness between 0.1 μm and 20 μm ;

-- the thermoplastic adhesive coating has a surface roughness; and

-- the percentage by weight of the additives in the thermoplastic adhesive coating amounts to between 0.1% and 60%.